

**To:** Kershaw, Jessica[jessica\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]  
**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Fri 9/18/2015 5:23:34 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Animas document

Do you think it's worth sending more broadly than to just Politico?

**From:** Kershaw, Jessica [mailto:[jessica\\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2015 1:17 PM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz  
**Cc:** Allen, Laura  
**Subject:** Re: Animas document

Thanks, Liz. Yes, indeed it'd be the first time we'd provide the summary - which is sort of why I want to be sure you're not surprised and your folks are comfortable with us doing so at this point. We just want to sort of level set the expectations for what this investigation will produce - before we get to mid-Oct and then folks are curious why it didn't do x or y. Make sense?

On Fri, Sep 18, 2015 at 1:10 PM, Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

I think that's fine but is it the first time you're sending it out?

Liz Purchia

U.S. EPA

202-564-6691

202-841-2230

On Sep 18, 2015, at 1:06 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <[jessica\\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Adding Laura in Melissa's absence. Please see below - and do let me know your comfort level.

Thank you!

JK

On Fri, Sep 18, 2015 at 1:01 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <[jessica\\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Liz/Melissa -

Are you both OK if i share the below summary of the statement of work w/Politico per their request for more clarity on what Reclamation has been asked to do w/regard to the investigation? This would be in lieu of providing the actual statement of work itself - which has not yet been transmitted to the Hill (but has been requested). And - Politico has filed a FOIA for it as well.

The below is what our teams have used in verbal briefings to Members however:

*The EPA has provided the Bureau of Reclamation's Technical Services Center with a work authorization to conduct a narrowly focused Gold King Mine Review.*

*The scope of work consists of:*

- *Description of the incident*
- *Geologic setting*
- *History of mining operations in and around the Gold King*
- *History of remediation activities in and around Gold King*
- *Site conditions prior to incident*
- *Remediation workplan*
- *Activities leading up to incident*
- *Site conditions following incident*
- *Industry standards and practices for abandoned mine remediation*
- *Lessons learned*

*The report is expected to be issued within 60 days (by late October). The report will be provided to EPA and made available to the public.*

*This review focuses on the technical causes of the incident and recommendations to address the potential for future incidents of this nature. The review does not address downstream impacts.*

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kershaw, Jessica <[jessica\\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 2:15 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Animas document  
**To:** Alex Guillen <[aguillen@politico.com](mailto:aguillen@politico.com)>  
**Cc:** "interior\_press@ios.doi.gov" <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>

let me see if we can shake it loose for you.

On Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 10:34 AM, Alex Guillen <[aguillen@politico.com](mailto:aguillen@politico.com)> wrote:

OK, thanks. I assume the press release isn't the controlling document, though. I'll prepare a formal FOIA request.

**From:** Kershaw, Jessica [mailto:[jessica\\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 10:30 AM  
**To:** Alex Guillen <[aguillen@politico.com](mailto:aguillen@politico.com)>  
**Cc:** [interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Animas document

Hi Alex -

Here's a copy of the announcement we issued when Reclamation was confirmed to lead the investigation on the Animas mine incident. While the investigation is ongoing at this point, what I can say about Reclamation's lead here is that they've

been tasked with reviewing the cause of the incident and to provide recommendations to prevent future actions from occurring. The Department expects we will be able to deliver a final, US Army Corps peer reviewed report on the investigation, to EPA by late October.

Here's a little more:

# Bureau of Reclamation to Lead Interior Department's Independent Review of Colorado Gold King Mine Incident

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Provide Peer  
Review of Final Report

8/20/2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), [Interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_press@ios.doi.gov)  
Peter Soeth (Reclamation), [\(303\) 445-3615](mailto:psoeth@usbr.gov)

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of the Interior has asked the Bureau of Reclamation to lead Interior's independent assessment of factors that contributed to the August 5 Gold King Mine incident in Colorado. Interior was asked to conduct the assessment by the Environmental Protection Agency to review the cause of the incident and provide recommendations to prevent future incidents from occurring.

"The Bureau of Reclamation is well-suited to head up this independent technical review on behalf of Interior," said U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael L. Connor. "Reclamation is already active in the watershed and understands the issues. Reclamation is also credited with fast action in response to the spill by doubling water releases from the Navajo Dam on the San Juan River to dilute the spill as it moved its way down the river system."

Reclamation will rely upon the expertise of its Technical Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado, to conduct the independent review and will involve other Interior Department bureaus in the activity. Reclamation Commissioner Estevan López also announced today it has reached an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct an assist and peer review of Reclamation's research and findings.

"Reclamation is uniquely qualified to direct this independent technical study on the behalf of Interior," Commissioner López said. "The Corps of Engineers will provide a thorough assist and peer review of this independent technical study once it is complete."

The Department of the Interior expects it will be able to deliver its final report to EPA by late October.

Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, and it is known worldwide for expertise in the development and operation of water infrastructure across 17 Western states.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/pressreleases/bureau-reclamation-lead-interior-department%20%99s-independent-review>

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On Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 10:19 AM, Alex Guillen <[aguillen@politico.com](mailto:aguillen@politico.com)> wrote:

Hey Jessica,

I've been at these Animas hearings on the Hill the past couple days and one

thing that keeps coming up is what exactly USBR is investigating. Does Interior have an investigative plan/memo signed off on by the USBR commissioner or Jewell herself? If so, can I get a copy? If there's not, how has USBR decided what exactly to investigate?

Thanks,

Alex Guillén

Energy Reporter

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Jessica Kershaw

Senior Adviser & Press Secretary

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